Stephen Reeves 9/20/10

WRT 105 Summary

In “Sculpting Body Ideals:  *Alison Lapper Pregnant* and the Public Display of Disability” Ann Millett-Gallant explains how Alison Lapper and the statue *Alison Lapper Pregnant* have created a debate about disabled people, women, and the definition of a hero. Alison Lapper was born without arms and shortened legs. Millett-Gallant explains that when Lapper was seven months pregnant she was asked by artist Marc Quinn to allow him to cast her so she can be sculpted. Originally this sculpture was considered a publicity stunt by Quinn. Later the public started to realize the courage of Lapper and started to consider her a hero. The public recognized the fact that she was not only disabled, but pregnant. Millett-Gallant later goes on to explain that Trafalgar Square, which is where *Alison Lapper Pregnant* is held, is notorious for having famous British heroes such as Admiral Horatio Nelson. She says that “With her marble, feminine curves and serene posture, *Alison Lapper Pregnant* would seem out of place in such a paternalistic environment— the freakish anti-hero” (Millett-Gallant 478). In many people’s eyes however, Alison Lapper is a role model for disabled people and for people who are pregnant. This is because Lapper is proud of her body. She wants people to look at her and find her attractive. Millett-Gallant later says that “*Alison Lapper Pregnant* carries on the square’s traditions by provoking debate and dissent” (Millett-Gallant 479). Lapper herself is an artist, contracting nude pictures of herself is her way of showing that she is comfortable with who she. Millett-Gallant continues to explain that Lapper got her inspiration to her pictures from the Venus de Milo, an armless statue of Venus the God of love and beauty. Alison Lappers courage and heroism are victories for the disabled community, showing that handicapped people can be independent and still be strong and confident.